

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of  
M. TAKAHASHI, et al.

Serial No.: To Be Assigned                      Art Unit: To Be Assigned  
Filed: Concurrently herewith                      Examiner: To Be Assigned  
For: Float For Liquid Waste Disposal Apparatus

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

After assigning a serial number to the above-captioned application and before calculating the fee, kindly undertake the following changes:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3 and 6-9 as follows:

Please substitute the amended Claim 3 for the original Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the flow path is structured having an interstitial portion formed between the sidewall of the float body and the inner wall of the container and/or an interstitial portion formed between the float body and the guide member arranged at the outer peripheral portion of the float body.

Please substitute the amended Claim 6 for the original Claim 6 as follows:

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6. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an absorption stop valve is arranged at an inner side of an upper portion of the container in which the absorption stop valve is activated when pushed upwards by an upward-pushing portion.

**Please substitute the amended Claim 7 for the original Claim 7 as follows:**

7. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the solidifying agent retaining portion is open downward and has a water permeable sheet or a water-soluble film spread and stretched at thus opening portion.

**Please substitute the amended Claim 8 for the original Claim 8 as follows:**

8. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the float is structured so that a specific gravity would be less than 1.

**Please substitute the amended Claim 9 for the original Claim 9 as follows:**

9. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 1 in which at least one portion is of a florescent color or is of a color distinguishable between a color of the liquid waste.

Kindly add new Claims 10-32 as follows:

10. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the flow path is structured having an interstitial portion formed between the sidewall of the float body and the inner wall of the container and/or an interstitial portion formed between the float body and the guide member arranged at the outer peripheral portion of the float body.

11. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 2, wherein an absorption stop valve is arranged at an inner side of an upper portion of the container in which the absorption stop valve is activated when pushed upwards by an upward-pushing portion.

12. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 3, wherein an absorption stop valve is arranged at an inner side of an upper portion of the container in which the absorption stop valve is activated when pushed upwards by an upward-pushing portion.

13. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 4, wherein an absorption stop valve is arranged at an inner side of an upper portion of the container in which the absorption stop valve is activated when pushed upwards by an upward-pushing portion.

14. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 5, wherein an absorption stop valve is arranged at an inner side of an upper portion of the container in which the

absorption stop valve is activated when pushed upwards by an upward-pushing portion.

15. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the solidifying agent retaining portion is open downward and has a water permeable sheet or a water-soluble film spread and stretched at thus opening portion.

16. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the solidifying agent retaining portion is open downward and has a water permeable sheet or a water-soluble film spread and stretched at thus opening portion.

17. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the solidifying agent retaining portion is open downward and has a water permeable sheet or a water-soluble film spread and stretched at thus opening portion.

18. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the solidifying agent retaining portion is open downward and has a water permeable sheet or a water-soluble film spread and stretched at thus opening portion.

19. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the solidifying agent retaining portion is open downward and has a water permeable sheet or a water-soluble film spread and stretched at thus opening portion.

20. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the float is structured so that a specific gravity would be less than 1.

21. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the float is structured so that a specific gravity would be less than 1.

22. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the float is structured so that a specific gravity would be less than 1.

23. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the float is structured so that a specific gravity would be less than 1.

24. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the float is structured so that a specific gravity would be less than 1.

25. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the float is structured so that a specific gravity would be less than 1.

26. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 2 in which at least one portion is of a florescent color or is of a color distinguishable between a color of the liquid waste.

27. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 3 in which at least one portion is of a florescent color or is of a color distinguishable between a color of the liquid waste.

28. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 4 in which at least one portion is of a

fluorescent color or is of a color distinguishable between a color of the liquid waste.

29. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 5 in which at least one portion is of a fluorescent color or is of a color distinguishable between a color of the liquid waste.

30. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 6 in which at least one portion is of a fluorescent color or is of a color distinguishable between a color of the liquid waste.

31. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 7 in which at least one portion is of a fluorescent color or is of a color distinguishable between a color of the liquid waste.

32. The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 8 in which at least one portion is of a fluorescent color or is of a color distinguishable between a color of the liquid waste.

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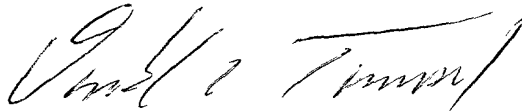
REMARKS

Claims 3 and 6-9 have been amended and new claims 10-32 presented to eliminate multiple dependencies. Support for each of the newly added claims can be found in original claims 1-9. The present amendment is deemed not to add new matter. Claims 1-32 are in the application.

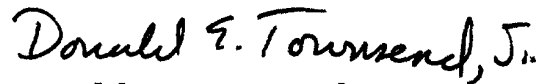
It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWNSEND & BANTA, P.C.



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Date: June 27, 2001

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS 3 AND 6-9

Please substitute the amended Claim 3 for the original Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the flow path is structured having an interstitial portion formed between the sidewall of the float body and the inner wall of the container and/or an interstitial portion formed between the float body and the guide member arranged at the outer peripheral portion of the float body.

Please substitute the amended Claim 6 for the original Claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to [any one of the claims] claim 1 [through 5], wherein an absorption stop valve is arranged at an inner side of an upper portion of the container in which the absorption stop valve is activated when pushed upwards by an upward-pushing portion.

Please substitute the amended Claim 7 for the original Claim 7 as follows:



7. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to [any one of the claims] claim 1 [through 6], wherein the solidifying agent retaining portion is open downward and has a water permeable sheet or a water-soluble film spread and stretched at thus opening portion.

**Please substitute the amended Claim 8 for the original Claim 8 as follows:**

8. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to [any one of the claims] claim 1 [through 7], wherein the float is structured so that a specific gravity would be less than 1.

**Please substitute the amended Claim 9 for the original Claim 9 as follows:**

9. (Amended) The float for a liquid waste disposal apparatus according to [any one of the claims] claim 1 [through 8] in which at least one portion is of a florescent color or is of a color distinguishable between a color of the liquid waste.